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Headline: Views on Responsibility for Jesuit Killing

Author(s): the Salvadoran Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office;
 date and place not given]

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Subslug: ['Statement' reportedly issued by the Salvadoran
 Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office; date and place
 not given]

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. ['Statement' reportedly issued by the Salvadoran
 Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office; date and place not given]
2. [Text] After an exhaustive investigation, the Salvadoran
 Archbishopric Legal Assistance Office issues the following statement
 regarding the massacre of the six Jesuit priests:
3. The operation carried out to murder the six Jesuit priests and
 the two maids lasted longer than 1 hour. During all that time, the
 perpetrators fired their weapons and set off explosives. This was
 proved by the many shell casings found near the Jesuit residence. The
 witness' statements also confirmed that the weapons were fired over a
 long period of time. The number of individuals who committed the
 crime was large. They were wearing Army uniforms. The witness saw
 approximately five individuals in uniform. The witness saw the men.
 She also heard the shooting, the closing of doors, and the breaking
 of glass in various parts of the facilities. The witness said that
 five individuals entered the servants' entrance of the Jesuit
 residence. Other individuals entered the residence by the door in the
 northwestern end of the building, the area where the priests have
 their rooms. Another group entered the Jesuit Center, searched it,
 and burned it with sophisticated weapons such as flamethrowers.
4. 3. [No numbers 1 and 2 as heard] Salvadoran Military
 Intelligence, the perpetrators, knew the Jesuit center and residence.
 In other words, they knew the UCA [Central American University]
 facilities. On Monday, 13 November, individuals wearing Army uniforms
 specifically searched the Jesuit center and residence.
5. 4. The scene of the crime is located inside an Army control and

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security area since the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff is located in that same general area. The Army maintains permanent military surveillance posts at the Democracia Building, the Manuel Jose Arce military neighborhood, the northern UCA entrance, the various UCA schools, and at La Ceiba de Guadalupe and Jardines de Guadalupe neighborhoods. All those areas are well guarded by soldiers.

6. 5. Despite the evident and verifiable militarization of the area where the crime took place--the curfew, the extended and heavy firing inside the UCA premises, the detonation of explosives for an extended period of time during which the perpetrators remained inside the Jesuit facilities--the Armed Forces did not react as they would have had this operation been carried out by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. This delay gave the perpetrators time to search the Jesuit priests' rooms, kill them along with the other two victims, and search and burn the Jesuit Center church, thus proving the size of the operation. This indicates that the soldiers in charge of security in the Manuel Jose Arce military neighborhood and the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff installations were aware of the operation being carried out.

7. Therefore, the Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office concludes that all the evidence indicates that military personnel of the Salvadoran Armed Forces are responsible for the murder of the six Jesuit priests and the two maids.

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